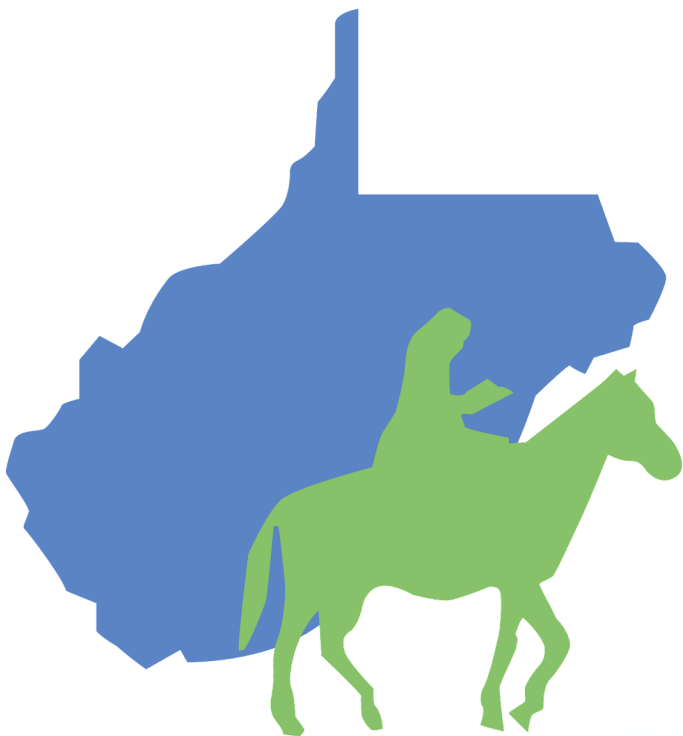


Conference Secretaries in West Virginia Methodism

1848-2023

175 years of Faithful Service



Conference Secretaries in West Virginia Methodism

Methodist Episcopal			Methodist Protestant (WV)		
1848	Charles Cook	1848	1869	Oliver Lowther	1869-1870
1849	Alexander Martin	1849-1855	1877	M.L. Barnett	1877-1880
1856	S.R. Dawson	1856-1860			
1861	Samuel Steel	1861-1862	1885	I.A. Barnes	1885-1887
1863	Alexander Martin	1863-1868	1888	G.M. Wade.	1888-1890
1869	Samuel Steel	1869	1891	L.A. McNemar	1891-1893
1870	Alexander Martin	1870	1894	W.H. Hart	1894-1896
1871	J.L. Clark	1871-1877	1897	T.W. Ireland	1897
1878	G.C. Wilding	1878-1884	1898	George R. Brown	1898-1900
1885	W.G. Rihelaffer	1885-1892	1901	Will A. Strickler	1901
1893	T.E. Galway	1893	1902	C.H. Ocheltree	1902
1894	J. Engle	1894-1897	1903	Samuel C. Jones	1903-1904
1898	D.L. Ash	1898-1899	1905	C.L. Queen	1905-1907
1900	R.B. Ward	1900-1903	1908	M.D. Helmick	1908
1904	Sterling J. Miller	1904-1907	1909	C.A. Isner	1909-1910
1908	J.B. Workman	1908-1911	1911	Jesse R. Jones	1911
1912	John O. Bolton	1912-1915	1912	John H. Mossburg	1912-1921
1916	S.B. Hart	1916-1924	1922	Lowery E. Oldaker	1922-1926
1925	C.C. O'Neill	1925-1928	1927	Lenny L. Bee	1927-1931
1929	John L. Wolfe	1929-1931	1932	J.J. Philips	1932-1938
1932	W.S. Patterson	1932-1938			
(Became Methodist in 1939)			(Became Methodist in 1939)		

<p>Methodist Episcopal South</p> <p>1875 T.S. Wade (Founder of Morris Harvey)</p> <p>1878 Q.A. Wheat 1878-1886</p> <p>1887 J.A. Black 1887-1895</p> <p>1896 Benjamin Franklin Gosling 1896-1901</p> <p>1902 A. Lee Barrett 1902-1905</p> <p>1906 W.I. Canter 1906-1908</p> <p>1909 W.L. Reid 1909-1919</p> <p>1920 W.I. Canter 1920-1938</p> <p>(Became Methodist in 1939)</p>	<p>Methodist</p> <p>1939 Rowland Aspinall 1939-1941</p> <p>1942 U.E. Wills 1942-1959</p> <p>1960 W.S. Overstreet 1960-1961</p> <p>1962 Virgil S. Ware 1962-1967</p> <p>(Became United Methodist in 1968)</p>
<p>E.U.B.</p> <p>Journals from 1858-1881 are handwritten.</p> <p>W. M. Weekley (later Bishop) 1864, 1873, 1874, 1880, 1881, 1887, 1888 wrote many of these</p> <p>1891 C.H. Cox 1891-1912</p> <p>1913 George S. Hanleiter 1913-1917</p> <p>1918 Elias Cross 1918</p> <p>1919 J.M. Knight 1919-1943</p> <p>1943 Kenneth J. Scott 1944-1963</p> <p>(Became United Methodist in 1968)</p>	<p>United Methodist</p> <p>1968 Virgil S. Ware 1968-1972</p> <p>1972 Dewayne R. Lowther 1972-2002</p> <p>2003 Judith M. Kenaston 2002-2023</p>

Biographical Sketches

Methodist Episcopal

Cooke, Charles (1848)

Charles Cooke, First W.Va. Conference Secretary July 12, 1848, a Distinguished Secretary of Pittsburgh Conference 22 years, and Christian Advocate Editor 4 years, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972

The First Session of the W.Va. Methodist Episcopal Conference was a joint session of W.Va-Pittsburgh Conference session 1848, for Clarksburg and Morgantown Districts were in the

Pittsburgh Conference to 1848, and Kanawha District was in the Ohio Conference. Kanawha District came into W.Va. Conference September 27, 1848 meeting. Thus the first W.Va. Conference had the above three Districts at first.

Charles Cooke, the son of Episcopalian parents, was born in St. Marys County, Maryland in 1799 and died in Philadelphia in 1875.

Cook entered the Academy at Georgetown, D.C., 1815 and joined the Foundry Methodist Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C.

Licensed to preach in 1819, he served the Lancaster, Virginia Circuit in 1820; joined the Baltimore Conference and was appointed to Westmoreland. In 1825 he fell into the new Pittsburgh Conference.

A delegate to the General Conference in 1836 and 1840, he transferred to the Philadelphia Conference at the end of his term as Christian Advocate editor (1840-44). There he served important pastorates, his last being Old St. George's, Philadelphia.

Simpson's *Cyclopedia of Methodism* says, "He was gentle, amiable, and an able preacher and greatly beloved by his friends."

by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972.

Martin, Alexander (1849-1855; 1863-1866; 1870)

Alexander Martin, Methodist Minister and Pioneer Educator, by Rev. J.A. Earl

The place of the Methodist minister in the History of Education in West Virginia during the pioneer period is a conspicuous one. Among the preacher-educators President Martin held an important place as the first president of West Virginia University.

Born in Scotland on January 24, 1822, he died at Greencastle, Indiana, December 16, 1893. Dr. Martin came to America with his parents early in life and never entirely overcame the "delightful Scotch burr" in his speech. Learning the tanners trade, he worked his way through Allegheny College, graduating at the head of class.

Entering the Pittsburgh Conference, 1847, he became a teacher in the Northwestern Academy, Clarksburg. At division of the Pittsburgh Conference and formation of the W.Va. Conference in 1848, he fell within the W.Va. Conference and in 1849 was appointed to Charleston and Malden. Secretary of the W.Va. Conference for 14 years, his other appointments were: Clarksburg, Moundsville, Fourth Street Wheeling, and Parkersburg.

However, most of his life was devoted to education: Professor of Greek 10 years at Allegheny College, 8 years president of West Virginia University. He may be said to have founded WVU, says the National Cyclopedia of National Biography.

Northwestern Academy under him was called the most progressive Academy in the state. Dr. Martin practically wrote the school law of West Virginia. Organizer and president of the University from 1867 to 1876, he was a profound thinker but very Puritanical.

During his administration card playing, smoking, dancing, attendance at the theaters, and all other social pleasures were strictly forbidden to the students. Philander C. Knox, later a distinguished statesman, was expelled from WVU for attending a theater. Knox then entered Mt. Union.

Dr. Martin was a delegate to four General Conferences and one World Conference in 1881 in London, and the Centennial Conference in Baltimore In 1889. He had many interests, and one was writing for magazines.

His philosophy was more reasonable than his attitude toward recreation. He said, "The children of the commonwealth constitute its richest treasure. Oxford to old England is her brightest ornament and crowning glory."

He married Carrie E. Hursey of Clarksburg. Both Allegheny and Depauw granted honorary Doctoral degrees to him.

Dr. Martin was inaugurated president of DePauw University on June 21, 1876. Dr. W.W. Sweet describes the important work of Martin at DePauw in the following noteworthy statement: "During the years of President Martin's Administration, Indiana Asbury (now DePauw) was the largest attended and undoubtedly the most influential educational institute in Indiana. During the first five years of President Martin's Administration, DePauw grew rapidly, both in faculty and student attendance. In five years students increased from 451 to 901, and the faculty from 11 to 52." In 1889 President Martin presented his resignation requesting that he be appointed professor of mental and moral science. The trustees complied with his request, and for four years more Dr. Martin continued to serve the University at Greencastle, Indiana. Thus came to a close a particularly noteworthy Administration."

Dr. George C. Wilding, among other things, makes the following interesting statement about Dr. Martin and his relation to W.Va. University:

"I can well remember what a stir there was in the State when he retired from that important position, the people feeling there was politics in it. Dr. Martin had some rare characteristics of manhood: that sturdy Scotch integrity and superb staying quality that could always be depended upon."

Dr. Martin made important contributions to education in West Virginia and Indiana in a pioneer period. Methodist ministers and laymen have enriched West Virginia through their many educational services.

Dawson, S.R. (1856-1860)

Rev. S.R. Dawson, Charter Member of the Methodist Episcopal Church West Virginia Conference/Private Secretary to First Governor, Conference Secretary, and Statesman, by

Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972

After S.R. Dawson's health compelled him to stop preaching and recovered, he became one of the great preachers and civic leaders of the state.

Born June 29, 1824 near Cumberland, Maryland, and died in Ellenboro, Ritchie County, West Virginia on January 28, 1892. Admitted on trial in the Pittsburgh Conference, 1847, he went to Monongalia County. He became a member, charter member of the W.Va. Conference and was its Secretary five years, 1856-1860. His education was limited, but he learned Greek without a teacher.

He served Harrisville Circuit (including West Union, the birthplace of Bishop Matt S. Hughes, Weston, Clarksburg, Fourth Street Wheeling, Benwood, Marshall and Moundsville. During his throat ailment he was not idle. He filled regular appointments, conducted funerals and attended Sunday Schools. He was a leader in bringing about Free Schools in W.Va. He was Ritchie County's first delegate to the legislature.

Since Dawson had not been actively engaged in the itinerancy, he moved to Ellenboro in 1860 and filled many positions of honor and trust: Member of the first and second sessions of the Legislature, Collector of Internal Revenue appointed by both Lincoln and Grant, Committee Clerk of the U.S. Senate, President of the Ritchie County Court for four years, Governor Boreman's private Secretary and Commissioner to settle the claims of those who suffered by the Civil War.

His final illness was brief; January 23 he rode to Harrisville five miles away and reached the funeral sermon of his old friends Col. and Mrs. Robert S. Blair, that evening he took the gripe which developed into pneumonia. He died January 28, 1892. Dawson's religious experience while living failed him not in death.

Rev. S.R. Dawson was married three times. He left his last wife and eight children to mourn his loss. He was buried in Ellenboro.

Steel, Samuel (1861-1862; 1869)

Rev. Samuel Steel, Chaplain and Pastor First M.E. Church Huntington, By J.A. Earl

Having been confirmed in the Established Church by Bishop Brant, Samuel Steel, after avoiding the Methodists for six months, was converted at a "Mourner's Bench" in Newsy, Ireland, February 16, 1840. After serving First Church twice, he died at his post as pastor and trustee of W.Va.Wesleyan (1884-86) dying before Conference in 1886, before the school actually started.

Steel was born in the city of Londonderry, in the province of Ulster, Ireland, May 12, 1821. His parents were members of the established Church. His sisters were the first to become Methodists. Rev. James Lynch, who was with Bishop Coke when he died on his way to India, had a great influence on Steel. For two winters he taught school in Ireland and enjoyed it very well.

In 1848 he sailed for America and reached Fairmont on July 4. Having felt the call to preach for some time, he was licensed to preach at Gilboa, Marion County, and was sent to Beverly Circuit within a short time. Then that circuit was known as "Brush College". His appointments were: Beverly, 1850; Weston, 1851; Wayne, 1852; Malden, 1853-55; Weston, 1855; Buckhannon, 1845-58; Harrisville, 1858-60; Parkersburg, 1860-62; Parkersburg District, 1862; when he was appointed chaplain of the Seventh W.Va. Volunteer Infantry, and remained in the service to the close of the Civil War.

His appointments after the War were: Mannington, a part of 1865; Chapline St. Church, Wheeling, 1866-67; Clarksburg District; Grafton; Morgantown District; First Church, Morgantown; North Street, Wheeling; First Church, Huntington, 1882-84; and First Church, Buckhannon where he died with his armor on.

In 1856 he married Victoria Lorentz, daughter of Rev. John Lorent of Weston. They Had four sons and two daughters. Dr. Steel was a loving husband, wise counselor and sacrificial father.

Loved by his colleagues and parishioners, he received his full share of honors. He was secretary of the Conference, 1861-1863. In 1872 he was a delegate to the General Conference. In 1876 Mt. Union College conferred upon him the honorary degree, Doctor of Divinity.

Loyal to the country of his adoption, to the Methodist Episcopal Church, and to his God, Dr Steel was the peer of any man in the Conference. Governor Atkinson said: "Samuel Steel is an earnest, able, and devoted minister of the Word. He is genial in his nature, commanding in his appearance, and draws close to those with whom he associates. He possesses considerable culture and is especially well versed in the Scriptures."

In 1878 Dr. Steel was appointed on a commission to receive school proposals and to the Centennial Celebration Committee in 1883; made a Wesleyan Trustee in 1884. His teaching experience and pastorates in and around Buckhannon made his choice a wise one. He died May 24, 1886. His funeral was held in First Church, Buckhannon, May 26, 1886 with W.G. Riheldaffer in Charge. By request, Rev. J.W. Reger preached the sermon. The people of Buckhannon, and surrounding country, attended the funeral services in such numbers as had neve attended a funeral in this region. He was carried to the grave by ministers of his own and other churches. His body was buried in Heavener Cemetery in Buckhannon

Clark, J.L. (1871-1878)

Rev. James L. Clark, DD. was born in 1813. He was an original member of the West Virginia Conference, having been part of the Pittsburgh Conference. Appointments included: Kingwood (1848-50); Palatine (1850-51); Monongalia (1851-53); Charleston Station (1853-55); Charleston District Presiding Elder (1855-59); Chapline Street Wheeling (1859-61); North Street Wheeling (1861-63); Triadelphia (1863-65); Wheeling District Presiding Elder (1865-69); Grafton and Fetterman (1869-71); Grafton (1871-72); Oakland (1872-73); Clarksburg Station (1873-76); Cameron (1876-77); Parkersburg District Presiding Elder (1877-80); Fairmont (1881-82); Lubeck (1882-83); Parkersburg Mission (1883-85); Williamstown (1885-87); and Parkersburg Mission (1887-88). He served nine years as secretary of the Conference and one term in the General Conference. He was in the Conference for over 52 years. (WVC Journal, ME, 1903 - as found in *Travelers on the Long Road*, p. 144-145.)

He died October 2, 1903 at Wheeling in his 90th year. He was buried in Terrentum, Pennsylvania.

Wilding, G.C. (1878-1884)

Dr. George Cleaton Wilding, W.Va. Methodist Pastor, District Superintendent, and Historical Writer, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1970

Brought to Hartford, W.Va. at age four by his parents, George and Elizabeth (Cleaton) Wilding, he was born in South Wales, July 17, 1846 and died at East Orange, New Jersey November 16, 1925. Educated at village school and Marietta College, Ohio, and honorary D.D. at Willamette University in 1893. He married Mary Jane Hall in 1868 and they had seven children. He entered the Conference (W.Va.) in 1873, having served Nicholas Circuit the year before. Previously, he had worked for a big mining company, where he rose rapidly in business standing.

At about age 19 he was converted and became an active and enthusiastic member of the church. Feeling called to preach, confidential friends, and even his father remonstrated with him against turning away from such business prospects for the cheerless outlook of a poor Methodist preacher. However, he was obedient to the heavenly calling in 1872.

Nicholas Circuit had ten appointments and included nearly all of the County. He bought Rev. J.B. Feather's saddlebags. Wilding discovered an old man's whisper about him: "That smart-looking young feller will do no good among us rough folks with them fine store clothes on." Immediately he had a tailor to build a suit of soft gray jeans. He laid his store clothes away till Conference. Although he had never ridden a horse before, he became an expert horseman. One man asked him if he had ever traveled with a circus. At the end of the year he had wool socks of all colors. Moreover, Wilding said, "I did not see a drunk man during the entire year."

Wilding's other appointments were: Point Pleasant; North Street; Thomson (both in Wheeling); Parkersburg District Superintendent; Peoria, Illinois- First Church; Monmouth, Illinois - First Church; Tacoma, Washington - First Church; Vancouver, Washington; Hedding Church, New

Jersey (Newark Conference); St. James, Elizabeth, Market Street Patterson, New Jersey; and Simpson Church, Perth Amboy; Field Secretary of the Centennial Fund and Preacher's Aid Society. Retired in 1917. He increased the resources of the Fund immensely. Since retirement he resided in East Orange, New Jersey, where he was one of the mainstays of Sanford Street Church from which he was buried in Rosedale Cemetery, Mont Clair.

He was of a most sunny disposition. In every situation he saw the silver that lined the clouds. Few men were so well informed on the subject of Temperance and Prohibition. On that subject he was always ready for battle. His memory was an arsenal from which he was ever ready to draw weapons for the support of his cause. Few men had so wide an acquaintance throughout Methodism. He seemed to know everybody.

Promoted Pioneer Preachers of the West Virginia Conference by Wilding has been a great Contribution to the West Virginia Methodism, 1927, published by Charles Scholl of Parkersburg, W.Va., with his compliments. It included all the ministers who died in the Conference - their obituaries from the Minutes up to and including 1908. A large section of the 137 pages was devoted to Transfers but not so full an account.

He held the pen of a ready writer (writing much about the W.Va. Conference, and contributed more or less to nearly all our church papers, as well as nearly all the great family of Southern Methodist Advocates, and various papers of other denominations. In addition to these he wrote frequently for the secular press and published a booklet describing his experiences on his first circuit. His newspaper contributions took a wide range; sermons, scripture studies, Personal Reminiscences, anecdotes of prominent men, moralizing on historic subjects - everything about which a fertile mind would wish to write.

The Journal and Year Book of the Newark Conference, 1926, made this statement about Dr. Wilding, "As the end drew near, he gradually failed in strength until he came to the close of his life as a summer day sinks to its evening. There was no reining, no fear of death, but serene confidence of a bright morning just beyond the temporary shadows. Under the spell of such a life it is easy to say with Victor Hugo - the grave is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare; it closes on the twilight, to open on the dawn."

Riheldaffer, W.G. (1885-1892)

Rev. Wm. G. Riheldaffer, Secretary of the W.Va. Methodist Episcopal Conference and Church Builder, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972.

Riheldaffer entered the West Virginia M.E. Conference in Wheeling in 1874 and was secretary of the Conference for eight years, 1885-92, inclusive. He was presiding elder of the Buckhannon District. In 1892 he was a delegate to the General Conference.

Riheldaffer's first charge was a circuit that included the Fulton Church. It was his first charge in 1874 and Fulton was in Wheeling. He was a carpenter and he with the help of members and friends built the first Church at Fulton, a wooden building and was first called Steenrod.

Business people and others helped finance this church near the Schenk Packing Company, one of the largest in America then and now it is the Hygrad Company.

In 1893 Riheldaffer transferred to the Des Moines Conference. He died in March 1902, at Mt. Ayr, Iowa, at age 56. A sturdy gentleman was Riheldaffer, a reliable German.

Galway, T.E. (1893)

Rev. T.E. Galway, Pastor Seventh Avenue, Huntington, W.Va. and Conference Secretary, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972.

T.E. Galway (1851-1893), was elected Secretary of the W.Va. Methodist Episcopal Conference in 1893, took sick and died less than a month later of Typhoid, dying October 13, 1893. He served two charges in the Huntington District, Seventh Avenue, Huntington, 1892-98 and Hartford City before, in 1885.

Born in Washington County, Pennsylvania in 1851, lived in Oakland, Maryland and Grafton where he entered the Methodist Episcopal Ministry of the W.Va. Conference, also buried in Grafton. Other churches by him were Burton, 188e; Palatine, 1884; Triadelphia, 1886-90; and appointed to Davis, dying the first month there in 1893.

A self-made man and studious, he was an interesting preacher, able, attractive, and a convincing preacher, and a loyal Methodist.

*According to *Travelers on the Long Road*, pages 273-274, he married Miss Ellen V. Linton in 1869. He served for several years as assistant secretary to the Conference and was elected secretary in 1893. This information came from the WVC Journal, ME, 1894.

Engle, Jeremiah (1894-1898)

Rev. Jeremiah Engle was born May 3, 1837 in Philadelphia. He was the youngest and the last survivor of a family of ten children. On February 17, 1867 he married Jennie Everett.

Brother Engle had a most enviable record as a veteran of the Civil War. He enlisted July 30, 1861 as a private in Company D, Thirty-fourth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, was promoted to sergeant major on August 15, 1861; to second lieutenant Co. G. on August 5, 1862, to first lieutenant, Company B on January 8, 1863; and was mustered out on September 13, 1864, on expiration of his term of service. He participated in all the battles of his regiment, thirty-three in number, including the battles of Lewisburg, Floyd Mountain, Piedmont, Lynchburg and Winchester. He was a member of the Cincinnati Commandry Loyal Legion of the United States, an order to which only honored officers of the army were eligible.

A Christian from childhood, he early felt the call to ministry. In 1876 he left a lucrative position with the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad to preach the gospel at sixty dollars a year. He was

admitted to the West Virginia Conference on trial that year, ordained a deacon in 1878, and elder in 1880. He served the following charges: Ceredo 1876-77; West Union 1877-79; Sistersville 1879-81; Short Creek and Liberty 1881-82; Hartford and New Haven 1882-83; Clifton and Mason 1883-85; Oakland 1885-86; Clarksburg 1886-88; was appointed by the Missionary Society in the middle of his second year as missionary to New Mexico and stationed at Las Vegas until 1889; Benwood 1889-91; First Church Fairmont 1891-93; Zane Street 1894-96; Presiding elder Clarksburg District 1895-99; Diamond Street Fairmont 1899-1901, when he took a supernumerary relation. He was Conference Secretary from 1894-1898.

Brother Engle was highly evangelistic in his ministry. He was a rigid disciplinarian, was well versed in church law and discipline, and was frequently called into counsel on points of church government. He was particularly neat and tasty in the use of the ritual; he did things "decently and in order." The beauty of our ritual was not marred, but exemplified, in his administrations.

Not the least eventful were his seven years of retirement. In 1903 he was placed on two tickets and elected clerk of Fairmont by a good majority. After two years service in office he was placed on three tickets and re-elected without opposition, a compliment to the man. During this period of retirement his relations with the Christian community were most happy. He was a general assistant to the pastors of the city, frequently filling their pulpits in their absence. To First Church he was a real assistant pastor.

Rev. Engle died July 3, 1909 at Fairmont. His body rests in Woodlawn Cemetery, Fairmont. He was survived by his wife and four out of five children. [*Travelers on the Long Road, pages 233-234.*]

He was also written about in *Rev. Jeremiah Engle, A Philadelphian, Huntington District Pastor, Union Soldier and Conference Secretary, W.Va. Methodist Episcopal*, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972. Much of the information was the same as above. Additional information includes the following: A memorial window in First Church, Fairmont honors this unusual man and preacher. The Engle Settlement in Fairmont was named for Mrs. J. Engle. Rev. Engle was a rural specialist, and a Dahlia Specialist. Son Robert is at Fairmont First in his eighth year, and preaches to large Congregations.

Ash, D.L. (1898-1899)

Rev. David L. Ash was born October 21, 1855 in Harrison County, near Clarksburg, West Virginia. He was the son of Isacc P.R. and Sarah Harbert Ash. Doctor Ash united with the Church quite early in his life.

In 1878, at the age of twenty-three, he began his work as preacher in the Methodist Episcopal Church, where he served for more than forty years. During these years he served: First Church Moundsville (1897-99); First Church, Huntington; New Martinsville; and Williamstown. He also served Wilsonburg (1878-79), Marshall (1879-80), Fulton (1880-81), Bridgeport (1881-83), Grantsville (1883-84), Pruntytown (1884-85), Weston (1885-86), Wesley Church, Wheeling (1886-91), and Sistersville. He served two terms as district superintendent - in Morgantown

(1891-97) and Clarksburg districts (1899-1905). He took high rank in the councils of the church. He served on important committees and commissions and was a delegate to one session of the General Conference. He graced the Board of Trustees of Allegheny College for a period of years and the Board of Wesleyan College for twenty-five years which place he held at the time of his death. He was secretary of the Conference from 1898 to 1899. He was given the degree Doctor of Divinity from Allegheny College in 1901.

He died February 9, 1925 at Huntington. He left his wife, who was formerly Miss Dora B. Hammond, of Moundsville; a daughter, Mrs. M.P. Wiswell, of Huntington; two sisters, Mrs. Louisa Swier and Mrs. Martha Allen of Clarksburg, and a brother P.W. Ash, of Penn Run, Pennsylvania.

(Travelers on the Long Road, page 23)

Ward, R.B. (1900-1903)

Rev. Richard Brooks Ward was born May 6, 1860 in West Milford (West) Virginia. He was the son of Grafton and Sarah (Brooks) Ward. His grandfather was Rev. Richard Brooks who was one of the first members of the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He graduated from Scio, now Mt. Union College in Ohio.

In September 1883, he married Miss Katherine Metcalf at Williamstown, West Virginia. They had one son, LeMarck Ward, who was born in 1896.

He entered the West Virginia Conference at the age of 20 and served Williamstown, Point Pleasant, West Union, Mannington, Cameron, Oakland (Maryland) and was superintendent of the Oakland District. In 1917 he transferred to the Pittsburgh Conference and served: Roscoe, Mount Morris and Chester (West Virginia) from 1922 to 1925. He retired in 1925. During his ministry, he was elected to the General Conference three times.

Rev. Ward died July 13, 1938 in Covington, Kentucky at the home of his son.

Travelers On the Long Road, page 345.

**Rev. R.B. Ward, W.Va. Methodist Minister and District Superintendent*, by J.A. Earl also mentions that he was the Conference Secretary from 1900-1904, a Trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1906 to 1910, and was appointed Conference evangelist in 1916.

Miller, Sterling J. (1904-1907)

Rev. Sterling J. Miller, Guyandotte Pastor and Prominent Preacher, by J.A. Earl, 1969.

Rev. S. J. Miller (1868-1914), born in Roane County, W.Va., June 1, 1868, was educated in the public schools, Marshall College, W.Va. University and Franklin College, D.D. Allegheny College.

School teacher, assistant bank cashier, Roane County Clerk, he joined the W.Va. Methodist Episcopal Conference in 1892 and was appointed to Concord (Athens), Mercer County. Rising rapidly in the ministry, Dr. Miller served these charges: Point Pleasant, Guyandotte, Charleston, Parkersburg, and Thomson, Wheeling. For three years, 1910-14, he was superintendent of the Parkersburg district.

Twice Miller was a delegate to the General Conference, 1908 and 1912. He was secretary of the Annual Conference, 1904-07, inclusive and Trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College, 1911-15. In every position he did his work well. He was a great preacher and his preaching was accompanied with marvelous results.

In 1894 Dr. Miller married Miss Roberta Leonard of Ravenswood, West Virginia. They had two children, Hubert and Louise; the three survived him.

After two weeks of suffering from Typhoid Fever, Dr. Miller died on July 29, 1914 at age 47 while serving so acceptably as district superintendent. His funeral in Parkersburg was one of the largest ever held in that city. Business houses closed and the community honored one of God's ablest noblemen. He was loved by many and respected by all.

Dr. A.B. Riker, former president of Mt. Union Methodist College, had charge of the funeral service. The Thomson Church quartette sang. Brief addresses were given by Reverends William B. Kin, T.G. Meredith, Archibald Moore, and S.K. Arbuthnot. His body was laid to rest in Riverview cemetery in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Workman, J.B. (1908-1911)

Rev. Jefferson Bowen Workman was born January 28, 1868 in Wayne County, West Virginia. E was the son of Alderson and Rebecca McClure Workman. His father and grandfather were both local preachers. He was educated in the public schools of Wayne County and in Oakview Academy. For seven years he taught in the public schools of West Virginia.

In 1889 he married Grace Wellman, daughter of the Circuit Clerk of Wayne County. They had eight children.

In 1892 he was licensed to preach. In 1883 he was admitted to the West Virginia Conference, ME. His first appointment was to Wayne Circuit, his home circuit, which he served for five years until the expiration of the time limit. His other appointments were Acme (1 year), Brandonville (1 year), Davis (4 years), Oakland, Maryland (5 years), Wheeling Wesley, Fairmont Diamond Street, Buckhannon District, Mannington (6 years), Charleston Central (6 years), Wheeling Edgewood Park, and Mannington. He retired in 1941. He was secretary of the Conference for four years, delegate to the General Conference in 1912, trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan for twenty years, member of the Board of Ministerial Training and for ten years was Chairman of the Permanent Trust Fund.

Rev. Workman died July 30, 1942 in Buckhannon. He was survived by his wife, son Paul of Clendenin, daughters Irma (Mrs. Thomas E. Holderby) of Huntington, Nellie (Mrs. Grover Stemple) of Oakland, Maryland, Margaret (Mrs. Frank E. Campbell) of Weirton and Inez (Mrs. William C. Manser) of Buckhannon. Deceased were daughters Irene (age 4), Rebecca (age 18) and Elizabeth (age 22). He was buried in Heavener Cemetery in Buckhannon.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, pages 420-421 (which found this information in the 1942 Journal of the West Virginia (Methodist) Conference.

**Dr. J.B. Workman, Lavalette Pastor and Distinguished District Superintendent*, by J.A. Earl in 1970 included the above information and added the following:

- In 1918, West Virginia Wesleyan conferred upon him the degree Doctor of Divinity.
- "A good gospel preacher with a glorious speaking voice, a sympathetic pastor, wise counselor, and astute administrator, a skilful debater on the Conference floor, who always advanced the business in hand, a lover of youth, with a delightful sense of humor and human to the finger tips, a great endowment for the Christian ministry, and greatly used".
- "Impressive funeral services were held in First Church, Buckhannon, W.Va., with Rev. H.E. Kelso, District Superintendent in charge assisted by Drs. W.B. Fleming (Wesleyan President), J.W. Engle, and C.G. Stater.

Bolton, John O. (1912-1915)

Rev. John O. Bolton was born February 13, 1871. He was the son of N.B. and Louisa Johnson Bolton. He was raised in the vicinity of Philippi and was educated in the public schools of Barbour County. He attended the Conference Seminary in Buckhannon (West Virginia Wesleyan) and took a course from Taylor University in Upland, Indiana.

He married Martha May Tripplett of Kerens, West Virginia on January 4, 1893. Five children were born to them.

He was admitted to the West Virginia Conference in 1891. While serving Spencer, he became acquainted with the church Extension Institution and spent ten years raising funds for Methodist schools, including West Virginia Wesleyan, Baker University and Illinois Woman's College. In 1928 he was appointed secretary of the conference Permanent Fund Association. He was on his way to visit his family in Illinois for Christmas when he became ill.

Rev. Bolton died December 28, 1928 in Buckhannon. He was buried in Elkins.

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Hart, S.B. (1916-1924)

Rev. Smith B. Hart was born January 1, 1874 near Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Pennington Seminary. In 1899 he came to West Virginia and was assigned a pastorate at Thacker Mines in Mingo county. He became a member of the conference in 1901 and subsequently served pastorates at Wise, Knottsville, Benwood, Elm Grove Church in Wheeling, Calvary Church in Moundsville, First Church in Weston, First church in Elkins and First Church in Huntington. He was also District Superintendent of the Huntington District, Executive Secretary of the Permanent Trust Fund, and Secretary of the Annual conference and delegate to General Conference. He attended 63 consecutive sessions of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

Throughout his distinguished ministry, he was ably assisted and inspired by his dedicated wife, the former Edith May Southwick, to whom he was united in marriage on December 25, 1901. As a team, they were deeply attached to each other, greatly beloved by all their friends and sincerely consecrated to the work of the church. Mrs. Hart died December 7, 1961, on her 81st birthday, from injuries suffered when struck by a car on November 15. Dr. Hart was hurt in the accident. They were on their way to prayer meeting when the incident occurred.

Following his retirement in 1946, they continued a period of extended usefulness. Additional pastorates at the Pea Ridge and the Guyandotte churches in Huntington were served. The Highlawn Church in Huntington has been the recipient of the presence, blessings, and activities of Dr. and Mrs. Hart in their later years as they attended regularly and participated faithfully in its services. His keen sense of humor, his constant love of children, his comforting ministry of visitation and her sensitive personality endeared this couple to all the people of this church. For a number of years he taught one of its Sunday School classes.

Dr. Hart died May 4, 1962 at the age of 88 after a fall near his home on April 17. A memorial service was conducted at the Highlawn Methodist church in Huntington.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p. 320-321

O'Neill, C.C. (1925-1928)

Rev. Charles Curtis O'Neil was born November 17, 1884 in Mason Township, Lawrence County, Ohio. He attended Lawrence county schools and Marshall College.

On February 3, 1907, he married Lottie M. Miles of Huntington, West Virginia. She died in 1944. On December 29, 1947 he married Mrs. Luella Anna Hurn of Cincinnati. Their children were Raymond M., Roland C., Inez Delphine, and Martha Geraldine.

He was licensed to preach in 1912 and received on trial in 1913 and was received into full connection in 1915. He was ordained deacon in 1915 and elder in 1917. He served Cox Landing (1913-14), Chelyan (1914-16), Dunbar and Charleston Wesley (1917-18), Charleston

Wesley (1918-19), Dunbar (1919-20), Chelyan 91920-21), Charleston South (1921-24), West Union (1924-25), Sutton (1926-27), Huntintgon Backus (1927-29), Conference Evangelist (1929-31), Farmington (1931-38), Brave (1938-39), Reedsville (1939-44), Morgantown Westover (1944-53) and St. Mary's Trinity (1953-57). He retired in 1957. After his retirement he served as an approved supply pastor in the Ohio Conference for an additional 2 years.

Rev. O'Neil died December 8, 1973 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Funeral services were held in Loveland, Ohio. He was survived by his wife, five children, 15 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p. 25-26

Wolfe, John L. (1929-1931)

Rev. John Louis Wolfe was born June 6, 1898 in Washington, D.C. He was the son of Louis and Christina Stephan Wolfe. He attended Parkersburg High School, West Virginia Wesleyan College (B.A. 1922, D.D. 1934) and Boston University School of Theology (1921-22).

He married Marguerite School in Parkersburg on December 27, 1922. Their children were John Louis, Jr. (1927), Charles Scholl (1929) and Henry Clay (1930).

He was licensed to preach in 1916. He served Newlon, Parkersburg Wayside (1922-26), St. Marys (1926-27), Charleston Asbury (1927-30), Morgantown District Superintendent (1930-36), Huntington (1936-42), Parkersburg District Superintendent (1942-45), Parkersburg First Church (1945-63). He retired in 1963. He also served on the conference board of Education (1939-45), Commission on Minimum Salary (160-63), was elected to the General conference in 1936-and 1944, was elected to the Jurisdictional Conference in 1939 and 1940, was Conference Secretary and Trustee of West virginia Wesleyan College (1933-63). He was a member of the Parkersburg Rotary Club and the Wood County Ministerial Alliance.

Rev. Wolfe died January 14, 1973 in Parkersburg. Burial was at the Mount Olivet Cemetery.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p.413-414.

Patterson, W.S. (1832-1938)

Rev. Winfield Scott Patterson was born February 29, 1899 in Barton, Maryland. He was the son of Charles and Agnes Hyde Patterson. He married Neva Triplett on November 11, 1930. His children were Mary Joan (10/17/1931) and Joseph Ross (10/24/1933). Rev. Patterson graduated from Richwood High School in 1918, West Virginia Wesleyan College (A.B. in Bible and Philosophy, 1924, magna cum laude) and Boston University School of Theology (S.T.B. in Bible and Theology, 1927). In 1939 he was awarded his doctor of divinity degree from West Virginia Wesleyan.

He was licensed to preach in 1921, became a deacon in 1925, was given probationary membership in 1926, full membership in 1928 and became an Elder in 1928. He served Belington (1926-28), Clarksburg First (Associate) (1929-30), Logan (1930-31), Oakland, MD (1932-39), Moundsville First (1939-43), Parkersburg St. Andrews (1943-47), Buckhannon District superintendent (1947-52), Oakland, MD 91952-58), and Salem (1958-64) after which he retired. From 1932 to 1935 he served as the conference Secretary. He was a Trustee for West Virginia Wesleyan College for thirty years.

Rev. Patterson died August 21, 1979. Burial services were held in Buckhannon. Burial was in Heavener Cemetery. He was survived by his wife, son Joseph, daughter Mrs. Mary Joan (William) Schenck, two brothers and six grandchildren. Three brothers preceded him in death.

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Methodist Protestant

Lowther, Oliver (1869-1870)

Rev. Oliver Lowther was born August 25, 1841 in Pullman, W.Va. His parents were William I. (Ireland) and Virginia C. (Mitchell) Lowther. He was converted in 1846 and licensed to preach in 1860. In 1863, he was admitted to the Conference and appointed to the Preston Circuit. In 1873 he was elected president and served two years.

Rev. Lowther died February 2, 1911. He was buried at Pullman, Ritchie County, W.Va.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.441

Barnett, M.L. (1877-1880)

Rev. Meletus Landcraft Barnett was born April 5, 1837. His parents were Nathan D. and Elizabeth Barnett. On February 9, 1868 he was married to Eliza Hamrick, who survived him. Their only daughter preceded him in death.

He was converted August 20, 1856 and licensed to preach in 1860. He joined the Conference and was ordained in 1866 and for 26 years was a zealous worker. Appointments included Sutton (1868-1869), Greenbrier (1869-1870), Upshur (1871-1872), Harrison (1872-1876), Georgetown (1876-1879), Marion (1879-1882), Lewis (1882-1888) and Harrisville (1888-1893) charges. He was a delegate to five General Conferences and a member of the Board of Home Missions from its organization.

He had six brothers, three of whom were in the Federal Army and three in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, including John (a captain in the Confederate Army) and William (a captain in the Federal Army).

He died November 1, 1892 in Harrison County. He was buried in the cemetery at Rockford.

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Barnes, I.A. (1885-1887)

Rev. Isaac Allen Barnes, D.D. was born August 28, 1857 in Pleasant Valley, Marion County. He was the son of Isaac N. and Margaret O. Holland Barnes.

He was converted in December 1873. He was educated in the Marion County schools and attended Fairmont State College and West Virginia University from which he received an A.B. degree. He took his theological training at Westminster Theological Seminary in Westminster, Maryland and graduate work at Kansas City University which conferred on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

He married Margaret A. Linn, daughter of Robert and Rachel Linn of Bentons Ferry, Marion County on June 16, 1880. They were the parents of five children: Fred N., Frank R., H.S., Mrs. Lena Linn and Mrs Bert Stealy.

He was admitted to the West Virginia Conference in 1878 on trial. He served as Conference Secretary for five consecutive years and one term as Conference President in 1898. His pastoral charges were: Watson, Weston where he built a mission and erected the first church, St. Marys, Morgantown, Harriville, Newberg, Grafton and Spencer. In 1901 he was transferred to the Pittsburgh Conference as pastor of the Second Methodist Protestant Church of Pittsburgh.

During his lifetime he served as public school teacher, county board of education member and Marion County Superintendent of Schools. He authored numerous newspaper articles and several books, especially *The Methodist Protestant church in West Virginia*. He was a contributor to the Methodist Protestant Record of Baltimore for many years under the caption "Things to Think About."

He was also the author of *The Barnes Family in West Virginia*.

He died September 26, 1944.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.39

Wade, G.M. (1888-1890)

McNemar, L.A. (1891-1893)

Rev. Lewis Anderson McNemar was born March 11, 1858 near Heater Station, Braxton County, West Virginia. He was the son of Joseph C. and Racena Heater McNemar. He was the seventh of eight children, all of whom died previously. He taught school in Lewis County before entering the ministry.

He entered the ministry of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1887. In 1903, he transferred to the Methodist Episcopal church. Charges served included: Aurora, Evansville, Logansport, Farmington, Wallace, Marshall, Moundsville Circuit, Friendly, Meadville, Ravenswood, Highland Avenue and Webster. He retired in 1924.

Rev. McNemar died January 5, 1938. He was buried in the Bellview Cemetery, Fairmont, West Virginia. He was survived by his wife, Elizabeth Ann and a stepson Paul L. Wolfe.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.480

Hart, W.H. (1894-1896)

Rev. William Hampton Hart was born December 10, 1861 in Morgantown, West Virginia. He was the son of John Thomas and Susan Tapp Tat. He attended West Virginia University. On February 21, 1896, he married Miss Artie Goodwin of Lewis County, a daughter of Samiel and Malinda Ann Goodwin. Before entering the ministry, Rev. Hart served as a teacher in the public schools of Monongalia County, being principal of Rowlesburg Graded School.

He was converted in 1877. He was one of nine ministers from the Madsville Church. He was a minister of the Methodist Protestant Church and served actively for more than 48 years. He was proud of the fact that he had attended 61 consecutive annual Conference sessions. Before his death he had been retired from the active ministry for 18 years, although he served the church as a teacher and a substitute minister whenever there was a need.

He served his annual Conference as Secretary and as the Annual Conference President. He served the following pastoral charges: Wadesville (April 1886); Assistant on Pennsboro (1886-1887); Bridgeport (1887-1888); W. Taylortown (Morgantown) (1888-1890); Beverly (1890-1891); Mt. Morris (1891-1892); Marlinton (1892-1895); Auburn (1895-1898); Bridgeport (1898-1899); Catawba (1899-1900); Parsons (1900-1901); Georgetown (1901-1902); Newburg (1902-1904); McKim (1904-1906); Pennsboro (1906-1907); West Morgantown (1907-1908); Leroy (1908-1912); Marion (1912-1913); President of the Conference (1913-1915); Flemington (1915-1918); Haywoode (1918-1920); Hereford (Gay) (1920-1921); Vadie (1921-1922); Roanoke (1922-1923); Burnsville (1923-1925); Pennsboro Circuit (1925-1927); Burnsville (1928-1930); Flemington (1930-1933) and Conference Evangelist (1933-1934). He retired in 1934.

After his retirement he devoted much time to writing. He was a prolific poet and took every community incident as an opportunity to pen a poem. He was a frequent contributor to the year Book of Contemporary Poetry, to church and secular magazines and newspapers. One of his great services he did for his church was the preparation of the history of the Methodist Protestant Church In West Virginia.

Rev. Hart died November 23, 1951 in Jane Lew, West Virginia. He was survived by his wife, two sons Lockley H. of Montgomery, Alabama, and Wilbur S. of Birmingham, Alabama; one daughter, Myra L. of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.322

Brown, George R. (1898-1900)

Rev. George Rowland Brown, III, D.D. was born July 6, 1867 in Stewart County, Georgia. His parents were George Rowland II and Martha Jane (Hightower). He was a graduate of Westminster College, Bowdon College in Georgia (A.B.) and Kansas City University (D.D.).

He married Edith May Adamson on February 28, 1889. Their children were George Rowland IV, Edith May (Mrs. G.H. Armacost), Helen Marguerite (Mrs. M.W. Marr) and Robert Adamson.

He was ordained in 1888. Before coming to the West Virginia Conference, he was pastor at Bowdon (Georgia), Waco (Georgia), Deatsville and Montgomery (Alabama) and Innwood, Long Island (New York). He was admitted to the West Virginia Conference after having served Grafton by appointment of the president who received his transfer from Alabama on March 10, 1896. "He drove his horse and buggy when the roads permitted, or rode horseback when the roads were impassable, over the hills as few men ever have. John Wesley had an easy time compared to George Brown." He continued to serve Grafton 1897-1899 then Harrisville, 1899-1902, Harrison, 1902-1903; President of the Conference, 1903-1905; Assistant Editor of the Methodist Protestant Recorder, 1905-1907; Secretary of the Board of Education, 1908-1915; Morgantown, 1915-1917 then transferred to the North Carolina Conference.

In the North Carolina Conference he served High Point First Church (1917-1926); Reidsville (1926-1938) and Liberty (1938 until retirement). He was a delegate to the Uniting conference in Kansas City in 1939 and ten General Conferences.

Dr. Brown died November 21, 1952 in Washington, D.C. He was buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in High Point.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.96

Strickler, Will A. (1901)

Ocheltree, C.H. (1902)

Jones, Samuel C. (1903-1904)

Rev. Samuel Charles Jones was born April 24, 1876 in Wales. He was a son of Rev. David Charles and Anne (Martyn) Jones. His parents brought him to this country when he was young. He grew up in Fairmont where he received his early schooling and graduated from Fairmont Teacher's College in 1898. He received his B.S.T. degree from the Methodist Theological School.

He married Miss Florence McKinney of Fairmont. They had two children: Mrs. Leo (Elizabeth) Flack and a son, Lewis, (deceased). In 1934 he married Miss Lena Founds of Moundsville.

During a long and successful career as a minister, Dr. Jones served Harrisville; Bethany; Wheeling, Chapline Street; New Martinsville, First; Elm Grove; McMechen; Moundsville Calvary, and Mullens. During these years he also served as District Superintendent of the Morgantown and Elkins District; was a trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College (1937-1945), Chairman, Church School Board for 10 years; and was Dean of Mountain Lake School for Ministerial Training. He was a Mason and Scout, and received his 50 year pin in Scouting.

Dr. Jones died November 11, 1964 following an extended decline in health.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.386-387

Queen, C.L. (1905-1907)

Helmick, M.D. (1908)

Isner, C.A. (1909-1910)

Rev. Carl Arthur Isner, D.D. was born August 1, 1873 near Elkins, West Virginia. He was a son of Benjamin E. and Rachel E. Isner. He attended college at West Lafayette, Ohio. He was also a student of West Virginia University at Morgantown and the Theological Seminary at Westminster, Maryland. He graduated from the seminary and later received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Adrian College. On September 10, 1898, he married Miss Minnie E. Sipe, daughter of Daniel J. and Julia Sipe. He was converted when he was 17 years of age. He taught public school for three years.

He was licensed to preach at Flemington, W.Va. where his uncle, D.C. Wees was pastor. He was received into probationary membership in the conference and was ordained in 1901. His

appointment included: St. George (1898-1900), Cassville (1901-1903), at Seminary (1903-1906), St. Marys (1906-1910), Spencer (1910-1911) Professor at West Lafayette College (1911-1912), Loaned to Muskingum Conference (1913), Morgantown (1917-1921). He also served the pastorage of the Ashville, North Carolina M.P. Church. He was a delegate to one General Conference.

Rev. Isner died August 12, 1923 in his home in Columbus, Ohio.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.370

Jones, Jesse R. (1911)

Rev. Jesse R. Jones was born July 29, 1873. He took up his life's work as a minister at an early age and devoted his whole life to the work. He was especially devoted to the work of the young people in the various departments of the Church. He was a lover of peace and a friend of the poor.

The last charge that he served was Smithburg. On this work his fast declining health made it necessary for him to retire from active service.

Rev. Jones died March 21, 1936. At the time of his death, he was living at Salem, West Virginia.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.385-386

Mossburg, John H. (1912-1921)

Rev. John Hudson Mossburg was born in 1864 or 1865 in Washington County, Ohio. His parents were William and Hannah Jacy Mossburg. He was converted in the Nine Mile church in 1884. On March 30, 1888, he married Julia E. Poynter, a sister of Rev. J.J. Poynter and daughter of Hyson and Mary Poynter.

He was admitted to the West Virginia Conference in 1885 and was ordained in 1889. He served the following charges: Avon (1891-94), Burnsville (1895-99), Bridgeport (1899-03), Buckhannon Circuit (1904-09), Flemington (1912-14), Mt. Morris (1909-12), Spencer (1915), Leroy (1916-17), Burnsville (1917-19) and Newburg (1920-22). He was superannuated in 1928.

He served as secretary of the Conference for ten years. He was stricken with paralysis while serving his second term as president of the conference.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.515.

Oldaker, Lowery E. (1922-1926)

Rev. Lowery Elzy Oldaker was born February 14, 1882 in Harrison County. His parents were Elzy Z. and Nancy Walters Oldaker. He attended the Glenville Normal School and graduated from the Westminster Theological Seminary in 1907 after which he served the Parsons Charge as pastor. He married Miss Willie Lawson, daughter of Dr. J.C. and Mittie Lawson of auburn, W.Va.

He was converted in 1891 and joined the M.P. Church at Green Hill in Harrison County in 1897. In 1904 he was licensed to preach by the Miletus Circuit and was admitted as a probationary member of the Conference the same year. He was ordained in 1907. Appointments were Parsons, Clarksburg, Fairmont, Shinnston, Green Hill, Buckhannon and Lorentz. He was president of the Conference for three terms beginning in 1927. He also served as secretary for five years prior to 1927.

While pastor of Lorentz Circuit he fell from a ladder and received an injury from which he died on December 25, 1930.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p.29

Bee, Lenney L. (1927-1931)

Rev. Lenney Edward Bee was born July 9, 1888 in West Union, West Virginia, the son of Charles Ervin and Lenora Virginia Wilson Bee. He married Ella Ruth Rollins on February 9, 1913. Their children were Lenney Edward, Jr. (6/21/1919) and William Basil (12/29/1920).

He received his B.D. Degree from Westminster Seminary in 1922. He taught in the public schools of Doddridge County for six years before being admitted to the West Virginia Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church in 1915.

He was ordained as an elder in 1917 and served the following pastorates: Etam-Nesterville Monongah (1914-18); St. John's Grafton (1918-19); Bethany (Baltimore, MD) (1919-22); Shinnston (1922-27) Bridgeport (1927-28); First Fairmont (1928-32); Methodist Protestant Conference President 1932-35; Weston Memorial (1935-39); Methodist Temple, clarksburg (1939-45) and Chaplain Street, Wheeling (1945-51). He retired in 1951.

In addition to his regular duties as pastor he was appointed to many posts of trust and responsibility. He was elected to four consecutive sessions of the General conference (1924, 1938, 1932, and 1936), served as traveling president and supervisor to the Methodist Protestant conference for four years and Conference Secretary for five years. He was a delegate to the Uniting conference in Kansas City in 1939 and to the first Northwestern Jurisdictional Conference in 1940. He was the Conference Historical officer from 1943 to 1953.

Rev. Bee died December 8, 1896. Funeral services were held in the Bridgeport United Methodist Church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ella Rollins Bee in 1970. He was survived by two sons, Lenny .E. Bee, AJr. and William B. Bee; four grandchildren' eleven great-grandchildren' sister Icie Reed; and brothers Cecil and Oley.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.54-55.

Phillips, J.J. (1932-1938)

The Rev. Jay J. Phillips, D.D., was a member of the Mt. Pleasant Church (Tucker County), having joined while the congregation still worshiped in the old log building, under the ministry of Rev. George W. Barrett, in 1890. Dr. Phillips, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. William Phillips, of Tucker County, was born July 14, in the same year that America celebrated her first centennial (1876). In 1895 he was licensed to preach. The following year he was admitted to probationary membership in the conference and at the session of 1899 was ordained an Elder in the Methodist Protestant Church, the writer (I.A. Barnes)being one of the Presbyters who laid hands upon him in the consecration.

Dr. Phillips attended the public schools of his native county; attended a Normal school and completed a six year correspondence course with Lanier University, besides a course in New Testament Greek with Dr. Chase of Harvard. In 1922 Lanier University conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. Brother Phillips began his ministerial career as pastor of Etam circuit in 1898, and has served successively Reedsville, Marion, Friendly, Georgetown, Bridgeport, Parsons, Rowlesburg and since 1922 has been the efficient and successful pastor of First Church, Fairmont. In 1915 he was elected to the presidency of the conference and re-elected in 1916. He has been a delegate to five sessions of the General Conference.

Dr. Phillips is a fine preacher of the Word; a safe and progressive pastor; a wise counselor and an optimistic leader. The churches under his care have always prospered.

The Methodist Protestant Church in W.Va., by I.A. Barnes, p.304-306.

His memoir in the *Official Journal and Year Book of the West Virginia Annual Conference to the Methodist Church, (1954)*, p.439 added this information: Funeral services were conducted in St. Johns Methodist Church, June 13, 1952, by the writer and Rev. R.L. Greynolds. Interment followed in the Parson Cemetery. (W.A. O'Dell)

Methodist Episcopal South

Wade, T.S. (1875-1877) -- Founder of Morris Harvey

President T.S. Wade (1838-1911) was born in Virginia in 1838; joined the Western Virginia Conference in 1858 and preached 53 years. He died in 1911 and his funeral was held in St. Paul's Church, Clarksburg, where he was buried.

The pastor and following ministers were present at his funeral: U.V.W. Darlington (later bishop), W.L. Reid, H.M. Smith, and W.I. Canter, Secretary of the Conference longer than any other secretary.

President Wade was the founder of Morris Harvey College in Barboursville, and her first president, serving 1888-90. He had been secretary of the Conference for three years, 1875, 1876, and 1877.

Among other honors that came to him were these: Dr. Wade was a Western Virginia Conference Delegate to the Washington and London Conferences in 1891 and 1901 and to the New York Conference on Federation in 1905.

Rev. T.S. Wade, Secretary M.E. South Conference and First President of Morris Harvey College, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972.

Wheat, Q.A. (1878-1886)

Black, J.A. (1887-1895)

Gosling, Benjamin Franklin (1896-1900)

Rev. Benjamin Franklin Gosling was born September 11, 1852 near Mt. Airy, Ohio. He graduated with B.A. (1873) and M.A. (1876) degrees from Ohio Wesleyan University. He married Susan F. Fithian on February 12, 1875 at Franklin, Kentucky. They had six children: Mrs. E.M. Kaetly (of Charleston), Mrs. Joseph S. Hill (of Charleston), Mrs. Ruth Camp (of Ravenswood), Raymond L. (of Huntington), Miss Faith (of Charleston), and Paul (who died in infancy).

Prior to going into the ministry, he practiced law in Ohio. In 1878, he joined the Kentucky Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South and served until the fall of 1886. He then transferred to the Western Virginia Conference. He served Ravenswood (1886-90), Catlettsburg District (1890-94), Charleston First Church (1894-96), Johnson Memorial, Huntington (1896-1900), New Maqrtinsville (1900-01), Clarksburg district (1901-02), Fayetteville circuit (1902-06), Ashland District (1906-10), New Martinsville (1910-11), Amos (1911-12), Central - Huntington (1912-13), Guyandotte (1913-14), Ravenswood (1914-17), St. Albans

(1917-20), Spring Hill (1920-21) and Ripley to the end of his life. He served a total of forty-six years.

He has a splendid record of achievement to his credit. He never faltered, however hard the task. He knew, loved and was devoted to the doctrines of Methodism. No more unselfish man has ever been among us. He was faithful in every relationship of life. He was a forceful Gospel-preacher with a clear conception of the fundamentals.

Rev. Gosling died February 1, 1922 in Ripley, WV. He was buried in the cemetery in Ravenswood.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.286 (WVC Journal, MES, 1922)

Barrett, A. Lee (1902-1905)

Canter, W.I. (1906-1908; 1920-1938)

William Isaac Canter, D.D. — W.I. Canter was born in Monterey, Virginia, June 11, 1869, the son of Rev. John W. And Martha Gammon Canter. His father was an honored member of the Baltimore Conference of the M.E. Church, South. He came of good Methodist stock, and of a family who, with him, gave to the Church and to the world many years of faithful and efficient ministry.

His scholastic training included some time spent in Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Virginia, and special studies at the West Virginia University.

In 1887 he was licensed to preach and came immediately to serve as supply in the Western Virginia Conference; he was admitted into the Conference at the following session in 1888, and served with uniform efficiency and acceptability in every place to which the Church assigned him, as Pastor of some of the leading Churches, Presiding Elder, Editor and 'Conference secretary.

His last pastorate was in Gassaway where, after months of suffering, he laid aside the tasks he had so long and so well performed, and slipped through the vale into that brighter clime, on March 15, 1941, to be forever with his Lord. His body was laid to rest in the I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Clarksburg, W.Va., after the funeral services in St. Paul's Church, which he had labored so zealously to build and which he loved so much. The services were in charge of the Pastor, Rev. H.S. My early, assisted by Rev. D. Ralph Dunn, Dr. Leonard L. Rifleman and Rev. Arden P. Kessler.

He leaves to mourn their loss, the wife of his youth, Georgia McAtee Canter, four children and six grandchildren.

Faithful to every trust, constant and true in all his friendships, beautiful and noble in his Christian character, he walked down the years of an unusually fruitful ministry, in conscious companionship with his Divine Lord, whom he so faithfully served.

(W.L. Reid, in the 1941 West Virginia Conference Journal, pages 113-114)

Reid, W.L. (1909-1919)

William Lee Reid was born May 19, 1865 near Lewisburg, West Virginia. His parents were James J. and Sarah Frances Humphrey Reid. He was educated in the school of Frankford, West Virginia and on the college level at Staunton, Virginia.

For ten years before admission on trial into the Conference, he preached in New York. In 1895, he was admitted on trial to the Western Virginia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. In 1898 he was received into full connection. His appointments were Meadow Bluff Circuit, Elizabeth Circuit, Guyandotte, Ravenswood, Charleston District Presiding Elder (four years), Fairmont District Presiding Elder (one year), Sutton, Catlettsburg (KY), Louisa (KY), Parkersburg District Presiding elder (four years), Logan, Prestonburg, Sutton, Ashland Centenary (KY) and Beckley. In 1920 he transferred to the Montana conference, MES where he served Butte, Montana, Spokane Washington, and in Arizona.

In 1923 he returned to the Western Virginia Conference became editor of the Conference-sponsored *Methodist Advocate*. He later served Mullens, Matew3an, Paden City, Long Branch, Dunbar, South Portsmouth (KY), Ansted, Charleston Elizabeth Memorial and Huntington Riverview-Pea Ridge. He retired in 1938 and lived in Huntington. At the Johnson memorial church he preached, conducted prayer meetings, taught Bible classes, visited the sick and gave constant encouragement to the pastors.

He was also Secretary of the Conference (eleven years), Conference Missionary Secretary (six years) and was one of the organizers of the State Anti-Saloon League and remained on its board of directors until his death.

Rev. Reid died April 21, 1945 after several weeks of sickness. Surviving were his wife, Mrs. Myrta Meretidth Reid and a son Leroy M. Reid of Spokane, Washington.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p.112-113 (West Virginia Conference, MC, 1945 and Rev. J.B. Yoak, Jr.)

*Additional information from *Rev. W.L. Reid, Western Va. M.E. South Conference Secretary, Editor and Guyandotte Pastor*, by Rev. J.A. Earl, 1972 includes:

- He did some Chautauqua lecturing, and when he was pastor at Davis-Thomas in 1907-08 he brought a 3-day Chautauqua there.
- His funeral was held in the Johnson Memorial Church with Bishop Darlington, T.M.Zumbrunnen, and the pastor, Dr. Kenaston, officiating.

E.U.B.

Weekley, W.M. (1864, 1873, 1874, 1880, 1881, 1887, 1888)

Bishop William Marion Weekley was born September 18, 1851 near Centreville, Tyler County, West Virginia. His parents were Daniel and Jane Pratt Weekley. Bishop Weekley was the oldest of ten children.

He married Rose L. Wilson, of Grafton, while he was stationed there. They had three daughters and one son. Rose died in 1883. In June 1885, he married Emma Gibson of Freemansburg.

He was converted at age 14 and three months later was appointed steward in a church of 170 members. The next year he became a class leader. Beyond common school, he studied by the fireside. He later studied on horseback and attended institutes or schools for preachers.

He was given a license to preach in 1869. He preached his first sermon on Little Flint run in Doddridge County. When the annual conference met in March 1870, he was too sick to attend, but asked for an appointment and was given the Philippi Circuit as junior preacher. His part was seven appointments and then was given two more. He was then sent to the Lewis Circuit and later to the Hessville Mission, where he added three communities to his circuit. He was received into the Parkersburg Conference, UB, in 1871 where he was ordained in 1873 and sent to Grafton for three years. In 1876 he was sent to New Haven at Pennsboro. He did not believe in long pastorates, believing it developed bossism. In 1881, 1885 and 1889 he was a delegate to the General conference. From 1882-84 he was appointed to Parkersburg, then agent for U.B. Normal and Classical Academy at Buckhannon. Later he was nominated for Congress by the Prohibition Party and pastor at Buckhannon (1889). In 1890 he transferred to the Rock River Conference in Illinois where he served Crangeville circuit, presiding elder of the entire Rock River conference (1892-95). In 1895 he was elected Secretary of the Church Election Society (1895-1905) and resided in Dayton, Ohio.

He received his D.D. degree. In 1905 he was elected bishop. He served the West District and tried to do what he did in West Virginia and Illinois - improve the morale of the ministry and membership and prepare for an advance. In 1917 he was unanimously elected bishop emeritus.

Bishop Weekley died January 8 1928 in Parkersburg and was buried there.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p. 364-365

Note: *Twenty Years on Horseback, or Itenerating in West Virginia*, by Bishop William Marion Weekley in 1907 is available on the Internet Archive:
<https://archive.org/details/cu31924007939576>

Cox, C.H. (1891-1912)

Rev. C.H. Cox was born January 10, 1850 in Ritchie County. He was the son of David and Rachel Cox. He became a Christian at age fourteen and united with the Methodist church. He was licensed to preach in the M.E. Church and later joined the United Brethren Church. On March 24, 1878, he was ordained and spent about 52 years in the active ministry. He served as presiding elder for about 17 years and was secretary of the Conference for 22 years*. He was a member of three General Conferences. He was a student and a strong preacher.

Rev. Cox died August 17, 1926. The funeral service was held at the U.B. Church at Salem W.Va.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p.165

*The book had him listed as Conference Secretary for 32 years, but it appears to be a typo.

Hanleiter, George S. (1913-1917)

Rev. George Shaw Hanleiter was born at Atlanta, Georgia. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. C.R. Hanleiter. In 1916 he was married to Miss Margaret Crickewnburger. They had three children. His wife and one son preceded him in death.

Among the appointments he served were: Raymore and Mercer in Missouri; Earleton, Kimble, Valeda and Geeley in Kansas, Kingwood Deer Park, Cedarville, and several others in the West Virginia Conference and the McHenry Church in Maryland and Virginia.

Rev. Hanleiter died July 1, 1947 at his home in Rutledge, Georgia. He is buried in Rutledge Cemetery in Rutledge, Georgia. He was survived by two daughters, Jo Freda Hanleiter of Thompson, Georgia and Mrs. W.B. Spearman of Social Circle, Georgia, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.314

Cross, Elias (1918)

Knight, J.M. (1919-1943)

Rev. John Melvin Knight, D.D. was born March 23, 1874 in Greene County, Tennessee. He was educated at White Pine, Tennessee, graduating from Edwards Academy in 1898 and Edwards Collegiate Institute in 1901, Otterbein College conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. He married Lelia T. Coile on May 28, 1901. They had two sons, Ralph and Robert and two daughters, Mrs. Maurine Leavitt and Mrs. Helen Williams.

He became a member of the Tennessee Conference in 1898 and was ordained in 1902. He served: Forestdale, Bookwalter, Atlanta, Georgia, Mission and Knoxville. He also served the east Tennessee Conference as superintendent and recording secretary.

He transferred to the West Virginia Conference in 1916 and served the following pastorates: Pennsboro, Charleston, Huntington Fourth Avenue, Parkersburg, First and Clarksburg Duff Street. He retired in 1945. He served as Recording Secretary for twenty five years, the longest period of unbroken services in this office. He was a delegate to seven General Conferences. At the time of his death he was a member of the Trustee Board of Quincy Orphanage and Home. He was also President of the West Virginia Council of Religion Education and President of the West Virginia Temperance league.

Rev. Knight retired in 1945 and had resided in Parkersburg. He died December 12, 1950 in Columbus, Ohio. A memorial service was held in First Church, Parkersburg. Burial was in the Odd Fellows Cemetery.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.409

Scott, Kenneth J.

Kenneth J. Scott 1944-1963

Rev. Kenneth James Scott was born November 2, 1897. In 1920 he graduated from Otterbein College where he received his D.D. in 1959. On June 16, 1921, he married Edythe F. They were the parents of Ralph and Esther.

He was admitted on trial in 1917 and full membership in 1925. Charges served included Rosewood (1920-22), Carrmonte (1922-23), Dayton-Troy (1923-25), Lockington (1925-27), Terra Alta (1927-28), Weston 91928-30), Ripley 91930-33), Middlebourne (1933-35), Huntington Fourth (1935-39), Dunbar (1939-49), Parkersburg (1949-52), Chestnut Street (1952-55), New Haven (1955-59) and Fairmont (1959-65). He retired in 1965. He served 12 years as West Virginia Director of Youth Work and served as recording secretary for the conference for 20 years.

Rev. Scoo died May 31, 1970. Funeral services were held in the Memorial Chapel, EvUnBreth Acres in Buckhannon. Burial was in Forest Rose Cemetery in Lancaster, Ohio.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p.176.

Methodist

Aspinall, Rowland (1939-1941)

Rowland Aspinall was born February 28, 1889 in Bolton, England. He was the son of Archibald and Catherine (Barlow) Aspinall. Until leaving England, in 1921, he was a member of the Wesleyan Methodist church. In the local church his activities were many and varied, from Sunday School teacher to Class Leader, to Sunday School superintendent, to Trustee.

He was educated in Bolton, England High School, Didsbury College, England, Mt. Lake Park, Md. Seminary Union, New York Course of study and Lakeside Bible conference. He received a Doctor of Divinity degree from Morris Harvey. (ca..1948)

At the age of 24 he became a Local preacher in the Wesleyan Methodist church. He began preaching as supply in 1918 and was admitted on Trial in the W.Va. Conference in 1922.

In 1924 he was married to Bertha Tootill.

Dr. Rowland Aspinall and Methodism were both born in England. Rowland followed in the train of Francis Asbury and spent his entire ministry in America, all of it in the West Virginia Conference. He has the distinction of serving three churches of more than a (1,000) thousand members each in each of the three denominations that formed the Methodist church in 1939. Diamond Street, Fairmont (M.E. his denomination), Humphrey's Memorial, Charleston, (M.E. South) and Spruce Street Morgantown, the largest former M.P. Church in West Virginia with more than 1500 members.

Churches served included: Mt. Lake Park (1923-27), Middlebourne (1927-28), Glen Dale (1929-33), Shinnston (1933-35), Beckley District Superintendent (1941-46), Humphreys Memorial, Charleston (1946-48), Spruce Street, Morgantown (1948-59); Retired (1959)

Dr. Aspinall served on the Statistical and Secretarial Staffs for many years. He served as Conference Secretary for six years, including the year of the 1939 Uniting Conference in Fairmont, West Virginia, where the Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, Methodist Protestant churches became The Methodist Church.

He was a delegate to one Jurisdictional Conference and appointed to the General Board of Pensions. While serving in this capacity he brought to the Conference the Reserve Pension Program by which one million dollars was collected for retired ministers and their families. On August 3, 1965, Dr. Henry R. High wrote, "While Dr. Aspinall was president of the Board of Pensions and later Pension Funds, Inc., our conference undertook to raise a million dollars to fund the Pension program. I believe this was the first time such an amount of money was ever raised among Methodists in West Virginia...a million dollars is still a lot of money."

Since retirement Dr. Aspinall has been president of the Retired Ministers' Organization. At this meeting a cane is given to the oldest minister to hold and then hand down to the next oldest.

Dr. Aspinall died May 16, 1972 in Morgantown, West Virginia. His funeral was held at the Spruce Street Church in Morgantown with Rev. Arthur Backus, Rev. Robert T. Horstman, and Dr. Henry High officiating. Burial was in the East Oak Cemetery in Morgantown.

Taken from a combination of sources: *Rowland Aspinall, a Biographical Sketch* by J.A. Earl and Dr. Aspinall's obituary.

Wills, U.E. (1942-1959)

Rev. Urvan Ellsworth Wills was born May 22, 1906 in Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia. He was the son of Harry Urvan and Mary Grace Brown Wills. He graduated from Elkins High School in 1923, Davis and Elkins College in 1927 and Boston University in 1930.

He married Ethel Corder on June 18, 1928. Their children were Margaret Frances (Taylor) (8/19/1930) and Don Urvan (9/2/1937).

He was licensed to preach in 1925. He was in the New England South Conference from 1927 to 1930 and served West Port Point, and New Bedford, Massachusetts. He returned to the West Virginia annual Conference in 1931. He served Nitro (1931-1937), Terra Alta (1937-1941), Richwood First (1942-1944), Spencer Memorial (1944-1947), Weston First (1947-1961), Beckley District (1962-1965), Bluefield Trinity (1965-1968) and Bluefield District (1968-1971). He was Secretary of the West Virginia Conference from 1942 to 1961. After retirement in 1971, he was parish visitor of the St. Matthew United Methodist church in Weston from 1974 to 1994.

Rev. Wills died June 67, 2002. His wife died in April 1996. He was survived by daughter Margaret Taylor, son Don U., and grandchildren Douglas Taylor, David Taylor, Leigh Taylor, Debby Clark and Donna Adams and six great-grandchildren. He was buried in the Maplewood I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Elkins.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 1, p.401-402

Overstreet, W.S. (1960-1961)

Rev. Walter Scott Overstreet was born October 21, 1904 in Bedford County, Virginia. He was the son of Andrew Davis and Pearl Mae (Scott) Overstreet. He attended Jefferson High School in Roanoke, Virginia, Emory and Henry College and graduated from Morris Harvey College in 1933 with an A.B. degree.

On October 8, 1928 he was married to Janie Lou Crumpecker of Roanoke, Virginia. They had no children.

He was licensed to preach in 1933. Four months later he was admitted on trial to the Western Virginia Conference, Methodist Episcopal South. His appointments were East Beckley (1933-35), East Gulf (1935-39), Gauley Bridge (1939-42), Spencer Memorial (1942-44), Conference Board of Education (1944-53), Central District Superintendent (1953-57), Charleston Central (1957-60), Ravenswood (1960-61), Fairmont District Superintendent (1961-67), West Virginia Wesleyan (1967-70). He was Statistical Secretary of the Annual conference (1935-44) Secretary of the Annual Conference (1960-61). He served in some capacity in more than two hundred camps, assemblies and institutes. He was a member on countless boards, commissions and committees of the Conference. He was a trustee of West Virginia Wesleyan College (1947-56; 1964-70). He was a delegate to the General conference of 1952 and the 1952 and 1956 Northeast Jurisdictional conference.

During the years of 1967-70 he served as a "special assistant to the president of West Virginia Wesleyan College to promote the interests of the college to the churchmen of the state, solicit funds for the operating budget, and promote special causes. In addition he will promote a program of wills and bequests among Methodists and friends of the college."

Rev. Overstreet died July 27, 1972. He was buried in Roanoke, Virginia.

Travelers on the Long Road, Volume 2, p. 31.

West Virginia Wesleyan College Bulletin - Sundial, September 1967, p.24

Ware, Virgil H. (1962-1968 in Methodist; 1968-1972 in United Methodist)

Virgil H. Ware was born July 20, 1922, in Marmet W.Va. He was the son of Herbert Wendell and Ada (Riggleman) Ware. He attended Fairmont High School, Morris Harvey College (B.A. 1947), Vanderbilt University School of Religion, Nashville (Bachelor of Divinity 1950). He received a Doctor of Divinity from West Virginia Wesleyan College in 1981.

On July 24, 1943 he married Martha Jane Linn of Fairmont, West Virginia. Their children are: David Virgil (Dec. 25, 1944), Janice Sue (January 5, 1947), Joyce (April 3, 1951), and Gayle Linn (September 10, 1955).

He was licensed to preach, April 11, 1947 in Full connection with the West Virginia Conference. Ordained as a Deacon September 5, 1949 and as Elder July 11, 1950. Charges served: Good Hope Circuit, Tennessee conference (1948-49), Assistant pastor Johnson Memorial, Huntington (1950-51), Morris Memorial, Charleston (1951-55), Guyandotte, Huntington (1955-59), Broad Oaks, Clarksburg (1959-1964); Summerville (1965-1968); Williamstown (1969-1971); Associate Director CCOM, Conference Treasurer, Executive Secretary Board of Pensions (1972-1983); Conference Treasurer, Executive Treasurer Board of Pensions, Pension Funds, Inc. (1984-1987). Retired 1988. Agent for Conference Trustees 1988-1999).

In retirement, Dr. Ware continued to serve as agent for the West Virginia United Methodist Conference Trustees. He attended and assisted with services at Christ Church United Methodist in Charleston, West Virginia.

Rev. Ware served as a rifleman in the 29th Infantry Division in the European Theater during World War II. He holds five campaign stars and a combat rifleman award. He was a prisoner of the German Army for a short time, and served a total of 33 months in the Armed Forces.

He has served the Conference as Registrar of the Board of Ministerial Training, Secretary of the conference Board of Pensions, and as Conference Secretary from 1968-1972. He received the 75th Anniversary Honor Award from Morris Harvey College in 1963.

Rev. Ware is a third generation member of the W.Va. conference: Rev. Edgar Bertram Ware, Dr. Herbert Wendell Ware, and Rev. Virgil H. Ware.

Rev. Ware died March 4, 2004. He was survived by his wife of 60 years, Martha Jane Ware; one sister and her husband Harriet and Tom Greenwood of Germantown, Tennessee; one son and his wife (David and Trudy Ware of Jane Lew), three daughters and their husbands (Janice and Ray Sundstrum of Freemansburg, Joyce and Steve Brown of Mt. Nebo, and Gayle and Peter Jayne of Ingleside, Md.); and grandchildren (John Warder, Sam Ware, Tim Harsha, Debbie Harsha Birkhead, Kristen Peck Eakle, Katie Peck, Rebecca Jayne and Brian Jayne; and great granddaughter Georgia Warder.

Methodist Ministers of the West Virginia Conference, 1964, p.150

The Ministers of the West Virginia Conference United Methodist Church, 1976 p.144

Obituary

United Methodist

Lowther, Dewayne R. (1972-2002)

Rev. Dewayne Rymer Lowther was born on November 7, 1934 in Weston, West Virginia to Rev. Russell D. Lowther and Catherine (Bush) Lowther.

On October 30, 1953 he married Mary Virginia (Ginnie) Settle and they began a life of service together. They have three daughters: Paula Vantia (McGrew), Sarah Virginia (Hensley), and Mary Catherine (Perkins).

He graduated from Parkersburg High School (1953), B.A. WVWC (1957); M.Div. Garrett (1962); Continuing Education: (1971) (Summer) Boston University School of Theology, (1971) Morris Harvey (Journalism Course in News Writing), (1973) West Virginia Northern Community College

(Computer Programming), (1977) West Virginia University (Instructional Media). He also received Dean Training at Jumonville, Uniontown, PA (1965) and Jeddo, Port Huron, MI (1966).

Rev. Lowther was Licensed to Preach in 1953, Admitted on Trial in 1957, Ordained Deacon in 1960, Ordained Elder and Received in Full Connection to the West Virginia Annual Conference in 1962.

(Service): Trinity 1953; Wilsonburg Circuit 1954; Westfield (IL) 1957; Donovan (IL) 1959; St. Marks Associate, Charleston 1962; Westover 1964; West Liberty 1967; Wesley, Charleston 1968; St. John's, New Martinsville 1972; Elected Annual Conference Secretary in 1972; Grace, Keyser 1977; Temple, Clarksburg 1980; Annual Conference Secretary and Chelyan (PT) 1984; Annual Conference Secretary 1985 until his retirement in 2002.

Beyond the local church, he served as: Chairman of Christian Workers School for the Charleston District (1963), on the staff of the Charleston District Senior High Camp (1963), Fairmont District Director of Youth Work (1964-1967), Dean of the Fairmont District Senior High Camp (1965 and 1966), Instructor for Camp Coaching Conference at Spring Heights (1966), Dean for Conference Officer Training Workshop at Wesleyan College (1967), Dean for Northern W.Va. M.Y.F. Leadership Conference at EvUnBreth (1967), Dean for Conference Rustic Camp at Spring Heights (1968 and 1969), Chairman of Annual Conference Sessions Committee (1969), Dean of the Charleston District Junior High Camp (1969) and the Charleston District Junior and Senior High Camp (1970), Coordinator for Family Ministries in the Charleston District (1970), Dean of Christian Education School for Charleston District (1971), Secretary of the Wheeling District Conference (1972), Secretary of Communication for Wheeling District (1972). After retirement in 2002, taught a course on Photographic Journaling at the Rustic Camp (Spring Heights).

Memberships in organizations included Lions Clubs in communities where he was serving pastorates. He was a charter member of the Wilsonburg Lions Club, and served as Vice-President of the Westover club, President of the Williamstown club, Secretary of the Charleston West Side and New Martinsville Clubs. He was an Associate Member of Professional Photographers of America and the West Virginia Press Association.

He served as Conference Secretary from 1972-2002, the longest-serving Conference Secretary in Conference history, including the denominations preceding the United Methodist Church. He is noted as being the first Conference Secretary in the denomination to use computer word processing equipment to enable him to submit the Annual Conference Journal to the publishers in a form that did not require typesetting.

In retirement, Dewayne and Ginnie embarked on a ministry of memory, combining their love of photography and their desire to tell the stories of people who were involved in ministries of the church and visual and performing arts. Together they were invited by the General Communications Commission to come to General Conference to provide assistance to the

photographic staff. Their main focus was stories of the participants, and especially utilization of the arts in worship. (2000-Cleveland, 2004-Pittsburgh, 2008-Fort Worth, 2012-Tampa).

In support of the West Virginia Archives and History Commission, Dewayne and Ginnie attended and photographed over three dozen church anniversary celebrations, and created photo essays - many of which are available on the Internet Archive in an attempt to keep that history alive.

They also used Visual Journaling to document and affirm workers as they constructed the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences, Handbell Conventions, and many other events too numerous to name.

Telling the stories of people, as well as documenting the people and actions of the Annual Conference constituted a lifelong ministry.

Kenaston, Judith M. (2002-2023)

Judith Modlin Kenaston was born February 19, 1959 in Huntington, WV, daughter of Philip Eugene and Jean (Stephenson) Modlin.

Judi married Joseph S. Kenaston on August 23, 1981. They have three children Diane Michelle (1985), Rachel Claire (1988), and Connor Sheldon (1991).

Judi graduated from Marshall University in 1981 (B.A.) and National-Louis University in 1984 (M. A.)

Judi grew up in Seventh Ave. UMC, later St. Luke UMC, in Huntington. Throughout their ministry as a parsonage family, Judi has been an active member at Stretford-Urmston Methodist Circuit, Manchester, England; Christ Church UM, Charleston; Wayside UMC, Vienna; Lewisburg UMC, Lewisburg; UM Temple, Beckley; and Forrest Burdette Memorial UMC, Hurricane. She has served in leadership in all the churches as well as being engaged in the music ministry and the United Methodist Women.

Judi was the first lay person and the first woman to serve in the position of Conference Secretary in West Virginia.

In addition to serving as Conference Secretary, she has been elected as a delegate to General and Jurisdictional conferences since 2004 and served eight years on the Commission on General Conference, including four years as the chair planning for the 2016 General Conference. In 2016 she became a member of the Connectional Table for The United Methodist Church. Because of her experience with both the Connectional Table and the General Church, she was asked to apply to serve full-time as the Chief Connectional Ministries Officer for an interim period when this position became vacant, and subsequently was named to the position. She began in January 2023. The Chief Connectional Ministries Officer leads the Connectional

Table which is the place where vision, ministry and money are brought to the same table to coordinate the mission, ministries, and resources of The United Methodist Church. Judi compares it to the “church council” for the whole denomination.

Judi’s involvement in the District: Lead Team; Clergy Support; Ministry Spouses; Finance Team.

Annual Conference Involvement: Equalization Member of Conference 1989 - 2023; Covenant Council; Nominations Operational Team; Program Committee; Nominations; Rules; Chairperson, Conference Episcopacy Committee; Conflict Transformation; Chairperson, Living As Stewards Task Force (quadrennial emphasis, 2004-08); Chairperson, Clergy Support and Pastoral Care; Secretary, Board of Higher Education/ Campus Ministry; Chairperson, Campus Ministry; Council on Ministries; Personnel Committee; Resolutions Committee; Chairperson, Parsonage Standards Task Force; Assistant Secretary.

Northeastern Jurisdiction Involvement: Chairperson, NEJ Committee on Episcopacy; Vision Table; NEJ Task Force looking at Boundaries and Episcopal Areas; Member of NEJ World Wide Nature of the Church Task Group;

General Church Involvement: Chief Connectional Ministries Officer of the Connectional Table; Connectional Table – Vice Chair for Worldwide Nature; Chair, US Contextual Ministries Advisory Group; Interjurisdictional Episcopacy Committee; Commission on General Conference 2008-2016, Chairperson of Commission 2012-16 and Chairperson of Rules 2008-12; Messaging Team for General Conference 2016; General Church Worldwide Nature Collaboration Group; Member of Joint Task Force on the Future of General Conference, 2010; member of conference delegation for Mission, Education and Advocacy for Palestine and Israel with the General Board of Global Ministries, January 2007.

Judi met her husband Joe at Fall Workshop when they were in high school, and partnered to establish a district youth ministry and then later partnered for life! They were married August 23, 1981. She was involved with campus ministry at Marshall U. and began serving on the Conference Board of Higher Ed and Campus Ministry.

Her time as Conference Secretary has included a move to digitize materials to be located online on the Conference website. As Secretary, Judi has become a central point of contact for members of the conference. She met these challenges with grace, diligence, creativity, and a lot of life-long learning.



We can know our own history because someone kept records,
pulled information together, and documented it all.

Someone took notes at all of the meetings.

Someone wrote or gathered memorials to participants who were involved.

Someone was responsible for publishing that record.

This list of biographical sketches of Conference Secretaries in the West Virginia area
has been gathered and offered in celebration of those very people. They have helped
us to know our past and to understand our present.

I have undertaken this task at the time of Judith Kenaston's retirement
from twenty years of service as Conference Secretary.

My own father served for thirty years before her, and between them they have moved
the process forward through a technological revolution which provided new
opportunities for record keeping and publication.

They have been pioneers! Their biographies were the hardest for me to gather, as
they are both happily still living and there were no memorials to consult!

Thanks to Rev. Joe Kenaston for assisting me with Judi's information.

Paula Lowther McGrew
June 2023